

REMARKS

INTRODUCTION:

In accordance with the foregoing, claims 1-17 are cancelled herein without prejudice or disclaimer, and claims 18-25 are added. No new matter is being presented, and approval and entry are respectfully requested.

Claims 18-25 are pending and under consideration.

CLAIM OBJECTION:

The Office Action indicates that claims 4-17 were objected to under 37 C.F.R. § 1.75(c) for being improper multiple dependent claims. Claims 4-17 are cancelled herein; thus, making the objection moot.

REJECTION UNDER 35 U.S.C. § 102(b):

At pages 2-3 of the Office Action, numbered paragraph 3, claims 1-3 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent 1,799,050 to Kuturlash (“Kuturlash”). Claims 1-3 are cancelled herein; thus, making the rejection moot.

Applicant would, however, like to point out that new claim 18 of the present invention recites, “at least one longitudinal guiding projection connectable to the at least one transverse hoop,” and “at least one longitudinal guiding aid connectable to the at least one transverse hoop,” “wherein the longitudinal guiding aid of one transverse hoop connects to the longitudinal guiding projection of another transverse hoop, and the at least one longitudinal guiding aid and the at least one longitudinal guiding projection connectable to the at least one transverse hoop lie parallel and adjacent to each other along a horizontal plane in the vehicle longitudinal direction.” These features are not disclosed nor suggested by Kuturlash or the other cited prior art.

Kuturlash relates to foldable vehicle tops movable between a closed and lowered position at the rear end of a vehicle. Kuturlash fails to disclose or suggest “at least one longitudinal guiding projection connectable to the at least one transverse hoop,” and “at least one longitudinal guiding aid connectable to the at least one transverse hoop,” “wherein the longitudinal guiding

aid of one transverse hoop connects to the longitudinal guiding projection of another transverse hoop, and the at least one longitudinal guiding aid and the at least one longitudinal guiding projection connectable to the at least one transverse hoop lie parallel and adjacent to each other along a horizontal plane in the vehicle longitudinal direction” as recited in claim 18 of the present invention.

Dependent claims 19-25 (depending from independent claim 18) recite patentably distinguishing features of their own, and further, are at least patentably distinguishing over the cited prior art due to their dependency from independent claim 18.

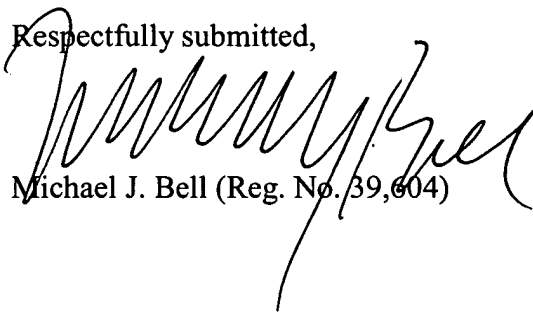
In view of the above, it is respectfully submitted that the rejection is overcome.

CONCLUSION:

All of the stated grounds of objection and rejection have been properly traversed, accommodated, or rendered moot. The Applicants therefore respectfully request that the Examiner reconsider all presently outstanding objections and rejections and that they be withdrawn. The Applicants believe that a full and complete response has been made to the outstanding Office Action and, as such, the present application is in condition for allowance. If the Examiner believes, for any reason, that personal communication will expedite prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at the number provided.

Prompt and favorable consideration of this Amendment is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,


Michael J. Bell (Reg. No. 39,604)

Date: June 26, 2008

HOWREY LLP
2941 Fairview Park Drive, Box 7
Falls Church, VA 22042
(703) 663-3600